

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 14 is a block diagram showing a configuration of an automatic level adjusting apparatus for implementing the conventional automatic level adjusting method disclosed in the foregoing Japanese patent application laid-open No. 2000-32330. In Fig. 14, the reference numeral 101 designates an imaging device; 102 designates a ~~ee-related~~ correlated double sampling circuit (CDS); 103 designates an analog amplifier; 104 designates an A/D converter; 105 designates a digital amplifier; 106 designates a frame average calculating circuit; 107 designates an electronic shutter speed controller; 108 designates a digital amplifier controller; and 109 designates a timing signal generator for generating a timing signal for operating the electronic shutter of the imaging device.

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration of an embodiment 1 of the image pickup apparatus in accordance with

the present invention. In Fig. 1, the reference numeral 1 designates a solid-state imaging device such as a CMOS sensor for generating an image signal by the photoelectric conversion of individual pixels at different timings; 2 designates a ~~ee-~~
~~related~~correlated double sampling circuit (CDS) for canceling noise in the image signal; 3 designates an amplifier for amplifying the image signal; 4 designates an A/D converter for converting the image signal into digital data; and 5 designates an automatic level adjusting section for automatically controlling the charge storage time of the solid-state imaging device 1 and the gain of the amplifier 3.